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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest 13 at Underage Drinking Party

OSCEOLA, Ind. (Nov. 4) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested 13 people on 21 charges after responding to complaints of underage drinking at an Osceola residence early this morning.

Deputies with the St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office and excise police officers investigated complaints of underage drinking at a residence in the 10,000 block of Douglas Road in Osceola. When they arrived, officers found around 80 people inside consuming alcohol throughout the home and playing drinking games at the kitchen table.

Officers found two 17-year-old females inside who had been consuming alcohol. They registered at .024% and .04% BrAC. Both were cited and released to their parents.

Eight other minors, aged 18 to 20, were arrested for illegal consumption of alcohol, a class C misdemeanor. Five of them were also charged with visiting a common nuisance, a class A misdemeanor.

Three adults were also arrested. Homeowner Steven Flaim, 49, and residents Triston Gil, 21, and William Hughes, 23, were arrested and preliminarily charged with maintaining a common nuisance, a class D felony, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a class A misdemeanor, for hosting the party and providing the alcohol.

All others were found to be over 21 and were released from the scene without incident.

Everyone cited or arrested this morning will appear before St. Joseph County courts on future dates.

The Indiana State Excise Police will continue to assist local law enforcement in efforts to investigate further complaints of underage drinking parties as they develop.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.